February 2007 *Lessons Learned Information Sharing* **Newsletter**

Contents

Pandemic Influenza

LLIS.gov **Launches New Pandemic Influenza Pages**

LLIS.gov has added to the **Pandemic Influenza** page to include morbidity and mortality data for avian influenza, answers to questions of interest, planning support, upcoming conferences, and related links--as well as *LLIS.gov* original research on other diseases that could be applied in the pandemic influenza context.

Moreover, *LLIS.gov* has added 10 additional pages based on planning elements identified by the Department of Health and Human Services. The planning elements address the following: preparedness networking, surveillance, laboratories, healthcare operations, clinical information, vaccines, antivirals, community disease control, outbreak communication, and workforce resilience. Members can access all of this information on the **Pandemic Influenza** page.

[Top of Page]

National Incident Management System

DHS Opens for Comment NIMS Upgrade Draft Document for Comment

On February 1, 2007, the Department of Homeland Security released Version 1 of the **Draft National Incident Management System (NIMS) Upgrade** and opened it for nationwide review and comment. This first comment period ended on February 19. Currently, comments are undergoing adjudication and a revised version of the Draft NIMS Upgrade **will be available on March 26, 2007**. The final comment period will end on **April 6, 2007**. If you have any questions, please email NIMScomments@hsi.dhs.gov.

[Top of Page]

Hurricane Preparedness

LLIS.gov **Updates Hurricane Preparedness Page**

LLIS.gov has updated and re-organized the **Hurricane Preparedness** page to highlight information about several different aspects of hurricane preparedness, planning, response, and recovery (e.g., Evacuation & Sheltering Operations, Functional Needs Populations, Health & Medical Issues, Logistics, Uses of Modeling & GIS, Private Sector & Business Involvement, Public Information, Recovery & Mitigation, and Volunteer & Donations Management). The page also provides state hurricane response plans, public information guides from several jurisdictions, and after-action reports.

LLIS.gov is currently collecting additional state and local hurricane plans in anticipation of this year's hurricane season. Please share your jurisdiction's expertise with others. *LLIS.gov* member submissions are essential to the success of the network. To share your jurisdiction's hurricane preparedness plans, email us at hurricane@llis.dhs.gov.

[Top of Page]

Radiological Dispersal Device Incident Response Planning

LLIS.gov **Publishing New Best Practice Series**

LLIS.gov has begun publishing its **Best Practice series on Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD) Incident Response Planning**. These Best Practices are designed to help jurisdictions prepare for, respond to, and recover from an RDD incident.

The *LLIS.gov* RDD Incident Response Planning Best Practices address such topics as incident identification, decontamination, and training and exercises. You can access these Best Practices through the **Radiological Dispersal Devices page** on *LLIS.gov*. This page contains a wealth of other RDD resources, including Lessons Learned, Practice Notes, incident-specific plans, SOPs, templates, and other documents.

We welcome any thoughts, questions, or suggestions that you may have at RDD@llis.dhs.gov. We also encourage you to **submit** your RDD plans, after-action reports, or other relevant documents for posting on *LLIS.gov*.

[Top of Page]

New Original Content Posted This Month

The *LLIS.gov* Team continues to post new Lessons Learned, Best Practices, Practice Notes, and Good Stories to the system on a weekly basis. Updates about new original content can be found in the "NEW *LLIS* CONTENT" section on the homepage of *LLIS.gov*. Since the last newsletter, *LLIS.gov* has posted the following original content:

Lessons Learned

- **Continuity of School Operations: Identifying and Training Substitute Personnel for Incident Command Roles** (*2006 University of Washington Pandemic Influenza Functional Tabletop Exercise*) School administrators should consider identifying and training staff members to serve as substitutes for primary assignees to incident command system (ICS) positions. These staff members can help ensure continuity of operations during an incident at a school.
- **Emergency Communications: Improving Communications with Train Passengers Trapped Underground following a Mass Casualty Incident** (*2005 London Subway Bombings*) London's emergency response organizations and Transport for London (TfL)—London's transport service agency—could not communicate with train passengers trapped in underground tunnels immediately following the July 7, 2005, bombings in London. The London Assembly report recommends that London's emergency response plans and the TfL's train communications systems should be updated to enable emergency responders and train staff members to communicate with passengers trapped in tunnels.
- **Geographic Information Systems: Creating a Template for Routinely Produced Maps** (*2002 West Nile Virus Monitoring by the Colorado Dept of Public Health and Environment*) Emergency managers should consider developing a standard map template when using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to map specific information on a routine basis. This can ensure that maps utilize consistent symbology, colors, sizes, and formats.
- **Incident Management: Alerting Hospitals in Close Proximity to a Mass Casualty Incident** (*2005 London Subway Bombings*) The National Health Service (NHS), the United Kingdom's main healthcare provider, did not alert all area hospitals immediately after the July 7, 2005, bombings in London. As a result, some hospitals were caught unaware when requested for resources and equipment. The London Assembly recommends that

all hospitals in close proximity to a mass casualty incident (MCI) should be notified about the incident even if they are not designated receiving hospitals possessing major accident and emergency departments.

- **Incident Site Management: Developing Pre-Incident Site Plans of High-Rise Structures** (*1992 Meridian Plaza High-Rise Fire, Philadelphia, PA*)
  Fire departments should develop pre-incident site plans of high-rise buildings in their jurisdictions. These plans should include detailed information about building fire protection features and should be recorded in a format that is accessible to on-scene personnel.
- **Mass Casualty Incidents: Protecting Victims from Environmental Hazards** (*2003 Rhode Island Station Club Fire*)
  Incident command (IC) should be cognizant of the need for environmental protection for incident victims. When a fixed facility is not available, incident commanders should request that resources such as decontamination tents or buses be brought to the scene as quickly as possible.
- **Shelter Operations: Arranging Sufficient Provisions to Accommodate Shelter Populations** (*2006 FEMA Region III Hurricane Preparedness Tabletop Exercise*)
  State and local emergency managers should consider creating a catalogue to identify the type and number of commodities necessary to sustain short- and long-term sheltering and feeding operations. Managers should then notify the appropriate Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Response and Coordination Center (RRCC) of these needs. This will allow the region either to procure or to mobilize the commodities necessary to support the jurisdiction's sheltering and feeding operations.
- **Shelter Operations: Working with Property Managers to Identify Temporary Replacement Housing** (*2006 FEMA Region IV Hurricane Preparedness Tabletop Exercise*)
  Local emergency managers and appropriate state agencies can develop plans to collaborate with property management and rental associations to identify available rental units to use as temporary replacement housing. This collaboration would give shelter planners an accurate estimate of available facilities that could be an appropriate alternative to hotels, schools, and mobile homes.
- **Special Event Planning: Incorporating Technology Tools in Pre-Event Exercises** (*2002 Winter Olympic Games, Salt Lake City, UT*)
  Pre-event exercises should incorporate all technology tools that command personnel will use to direct and to manage response operations during a special event. This will enable these personnel to train in an environment that is similar to the actual operational setting.
- **Special Event Planning: Providing Orientation and Training on Aviation Capabilities** (*2002 Winter Olympic Games, Salt Lake City, UT*)
  Event planners should provide public safety personnel with appropriate orientation and training on aircraft capabilities and operations prior to a special event.
- **Special Event Planning: Using Civilian Bomb Technicians** (*2002 Winter Olympic Games, Salt Lake City, UT*)
  Event planners should consider using civilian assets if additional personnel are needed to augment in-state explosive device disposal (EOD) resources during a special event.

Practice Notes

- **Disabilities and Functional Needs: Monroe County, Florida's Strategy to Promote its Special Needs Registry**
  Monroe County, Florida, developed a multi-faceted outreach program to encourage participation in its special needs registry. County officials educate target populations by distributing informative materials, speaking at strategic sites, and advertising the registry through local agencies.
- **Disabilities and Functional Needs: The Spina Bifida Association's Training for Emergency Responders**
  The Spina Bifida Association (SBA) trained 52 nationwide chapter leaders to deliver training to emergency responders and healthcare workers in their communities. The course teaches emergency responders and healthcare workers how to properly accommodate individuals with Spina Bifida in an emergency.
- **Exercise Evaluation: Local Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program Communities' Use of Qualified Peer-Evaluators**

Communities participating in the joint Department of the Army and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) recruit individuals from other CSEPP communities to serve as exercise evaluators. This practice ensures that CSEPP communities can rely on a trained and knowledgeable evaluator pool to evaluate exercises even as the CSEPP exercises program evolves.

- **Interoperable Communications: Yellowstone County, Montana's Interoperable Channels for Multi-Agency Response**
State and local law enforcement agencies in Montana utilize an "interop" channel to communicate with each other outside standard channels. This dedicated channel enables different radio systems to communicate with each other through a gateway system.

- **Mass Decontamination: Connecticut Capitol Region Metropolitan Medical Response System's Cold Weather Protocols**
The Connecticut Capitol Region Metropolitan Medical Response System (CR-MMRS) Taskforce on Decontamination Protocols' Rapid Access Mass Decontamination Protocol includes guidelines for decontamination in cold weather conditions. These guidelines are intended for fire department personnel performing mass decontamination after a chemical, biological, or radiological (CBR) incident.

- **Pets and Service Animals: Arlington, Texas's "Save My Pet" Decals**
Arlington, Texas's Animal Services Division (ASD) sells "Save My Pet" decals that residents can affix to a door or window to alert emergency responders if they have pets or service animals. In an emergency, responders can identify the number and type of animal in each residence and properly accommodate them.

Good Stories

- **Fairfax County, Virginia, Citizen Corps Council's "Ready… Pack… Go" Campaign**
The Fairfax County, Virginia, Citizen Corps Council's "Ready… Pack… Go" campaign uses faith-based leaders to engage the community and to encourage emergency preparedness.

- **Independence, Missouri's Coordinated Volunteer Program**
The city of Independence, Missouri, operates a coordinated volunteer program through Independence Citizen Corps (ICC). The program organizes volunteers and volunteer opportunities with the city government and Citizen Corps programs. A volunteer business plan served as a catalyst for the development and management of the Independence Citizen Corps volunteer program.

- **The Pacific Northwest's Columbia-Snake River Regional Maritime Security Coalition**
The Columbia River Steamship Operators Association's (CRSOA) Columbia-Snake River Regional Maritime Security Coalition (RMSC) is a private-public partnership that links maritime, land transportation, and air cargo sector stakeholders in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington into a secure, real-time, Web-based alerting and communications network. The RMSC coordinates members' communications systems and plans, trains and educates maritime stakeholders on preparedness issues, and collects and shares best practices in maritime security.

[Top of Page]

Upcoming *LLIS.gov* Conference Participation

The *LLIS.gov* team travels around the country speaking and/or exhibiting at conferences and events. *LLIS.gov* staff will attend and speak at the following upcoming events:

- **6-8 March: 2007 National Fusion Center Conference (Destin, FL)**
- **25-28 March: Disaster Recovery Journal Spring World (Orlando, FL)**
- **26-30 March: Second Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference (Destin, FL)**

Feel free to drop by our booth or speak to our staff at any of these events and share your comments and questions about *LLIS.gov*. Please contact the *LLIS.gov* Outreach Team at outreach@llis.dhs.gov with any questions or comments, or if you have a conference or event at which you would like the *LLIS.gov* team to present or exhibit.

[Top of page]

LLIS.gov **Message Boards**

Collaborate with Colleagues in the *LLIS.gov* Community

[*LLIS.gov* message boards](#) provide a great opportunity for members to communicate and collaborate with one another. Currently, the *LLIS.gov* message boards contain over 40 topics ranging from DHS grants management processes to amateur radio operations certification. Share your expertise with or submit a question to the more than 30,000 *LLIS.gov* members.

To access the message boards, click **[here](#)** or log onto *LLIS.gov* and click on COLLABORATE in the top navigation bar.

[[Top of Page](#)]